

Captain John Bartlum House
730 Eaton Street
Key West
Monroe County
Florida

HABS No. FL-185

HABS,
FLA.
44-KEY,
18-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAPTAIN JOHN BARTLUM HOUSE

HABS No. FL-185

Location: 730 Eaton Street, Key West, Monroe County Florida.

USGS Key West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.418960.2716150.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. James W. Logan.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: One of two houses known to have been constructed in the Bahama Islands, dismantled and brought to Key West in 1847 and reconstructed.

PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: Originally constructed in Bahama-Green Turtle Key sometime before 1847. Removed to Key West and reconstructed 1847-1848.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: John Bartlum purchased the northeast corner of Lot 2, Square 35 from his brother, Joseph Bartlum in 1847. (Deed Book D. p. 521). This property was purchased at public auction by his son, George L. Bartlum in 1910. (Deed Book X, p. 617). It was again sold at public auction in 1918 to Howard J. Sawyer (Deed Book A-3 p. 377). The property passed to Mr. Sawyer's heirs, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Duane, who made their home here until 1962, when they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Ramond Youngblood. The Youngbloods sold to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Logan in 1965 (Monroe Land Title Company Abstract).
4. Original plan and Construction: A two story frame building with white pine siding, unbalanced double gable roofs, and full length verandas on two sides. Originally the buildings had no interior stairways. The original stairways, both from the first floor and from the second floor leading into the upper one-half floor or attic, were located on the porches. The first floor stairway was on the northwest end of the ground floor porch, and the second floor stairway on the northeast porch.
5. Alterations and additions: An interior stairway was constructed sometime after 1918. At the same time the exterior was restored and missing capitals on the columns of the veranda replaced. Between 1962 and 1965 the outdoor stairway to the attic was removed, the interior was

extensively renovated and an addition was constructed. The addition served as an apartment and antique store and the original building was opened as a museum.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Captain John Bartlum was a native of Green Turtle Key, Bahamas and a descendant of a Loyalist family who settled there at the time of the American Revolution. He moved his house to Key West in 1847. With the barest rudiments of an education he became one of the ship builders in the South and built the only clipper ship ever built in Florida. This ship, the Stephen R. Mallory, was named for another Key Wester, then United States Senator from Florida, and later the Secretary of the Navy of the Confederacy. The ship was said to have been built entirely of mahogany. (The Newport News Maritime Museum, Newport News, Virginia).

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Exterior photograph by Don Pinder showing the north corner, n.d. but probably around 1960.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources.

Monroe County Courthouse Records and Deed Books, County Clerk's Office, Key West, Florida.

Monroe Land Title Company, Abstract, Key West, Florida.

Sanborn Map of Key West, 1886, 1892, 1899, 1912, 1926.
Sanborn Map Co., New York.

b. Secondary and published sources:

American Guide Series, A Guide to Key West, Hastings House, New York, 1949, p. 84, No. 10.

American Guide Series, Florida, Oxford University Press, New York, 1939, p. 204.

Browne, Jefferson B., Key West the Old and New, The Record Co., St. Augustine, Florida, 1912. pp. 183, 184.

Coppick, Marie, "The Key West Story," Coral Tribune, Key West, Florida, Chapters 14 and 15.

Chapin, George M., History of Florida, Vol. II, S.J. Clark Publishing Co., Chicago, 1914. (See Biographies of George L. Bartlum and William Curry).

Maloney, Walter, C., A Sketch of Key West History, The
Advertiser Printing House, Newark, New Jersey, 1876.

Prepared by: Betty M. Bruce
Old Island Restoration
Foundation, Inc.
HABS Key West Project
January 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The basic house is typical of the architecture of the Bahama Islands.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A two-story house, 35' by 45', rectangular with appendages.
2. Foundations: Quarried lime rock piers, cistern underneath.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Horizontal wood siding, distinguished by bead edge on weather side.
4. Structural system, framing: Frame construction.
5. Porches: Full, two-story verandas on the northwest and northeast elevations, square columns of cedar, molded capitals, balustrade with plain handrail and narrow square balusters, floor of wooden boards.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Plain frames and doors.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Large windows with sills just above floor, six-over-six-light double hung sash, paired shutters. Frames are supposedly of mahogany.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: "A" frame with terne plate shingles. Limited ability to span predicated a repetitive "A" frame to cover wide areas producing a double, often unbalanced frame, which is characteristic of Key West.

b. Cornice: Plain, wood cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

a. First floor - central hallway and stairs, with random rooms off hall, mostly opening onto porches. Low head room indicates early construction, prior to cool, high ceiling principle that dictated later Key West construction.

b. Second floor - similar to first floor.

2. Stairways: One-run, interior stairway constructed in twentieth century.

3. Flooring: Original boards have been removed.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings were originally exposed, tongue and groove horizontal wood sheathing. Presently wallpapered.

5. Hardware: Original window latches remain in place.

D. Site: The house is located on the southwest corner of Eaton and William Streets. It sits on raised ground, with a picket fence atop a retaining wall juxtaposed to the sidewalk.

Prepared by: Charles E. McCoy, Jr.,
Architect
Old Island Restoration
Foundation
Key West Project
February 1966

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared in 1967 during a summer project jointly sponsored by the Old Island Restoration Foundation, Inc. of Key West, and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Twenty-two structures were recorded, ranging from commercial structures, residences and hospitals to a convent, a lighthouse, and the Memorial to the Victims of the Disaster of the U.S. Battleship Maine.

The project was under the direction of F. Blair Reeves, AIA, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Florida. Measured drawings were prepared by student architects John D. Davenport and John F. Grimm of Texas A. and M. University, and John O. Crosby of the University of Florida. Mrs. Betty M. Bruce of the Old Island Restoration Foundation, Inc., and Professor Reeves were responsible for the historical and architectural data. They were assisted by members of the Foundation. J. Franks Brooks, Photographer, of Key West, supplied the photographs.